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Exceptional outcomes.

April 18, 2016

Mr. Patrick Fahn

ND Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Construction Inspection Report for the Courtenay Wind Farm Project

Dear Mr. Fahn,

Enclosed are two (2) signed copies of the construction inspection report for the 200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm Project, PSC case number PU-13-064/ PU-15-174. Also provided is one (1) electronic copy of the report on CD for the project. The CD also includes original site inspection photos.

You can reach me at the office at 701-751-6130 or via email at sswanberg@wenck.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wenck Associates, Inc.

Samantha Swanberg
Environmental Scientist

enc: Courtenay Wind Farm Project, 2 Signed Copies; 1 CD

46 PU-15-174 Filed 04/18/2016 Pages: 14
Construction Inspection Report
Wenck Associates, Inc.

Technical Memo



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To: Patrick Fahn, North Dakota Public Service Commission
From: Samantha Swanberg, Wenck Associates, Inc.
Copy: Kevin Magstadt, P.E., Wenck Associates, Inc.
Date: April 15, 2016
Subject: PU-13-064/ PU-15-174 Courtenay Wind Farms - Construction Inspection Report

Construction Inspection Report

Site Visit: April 6, 2016

200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm – Northern States Power Company – Stutsman County – PSC Case No. PU-13-064, PU-15-174

In attendance:

- Jeff Berrington – Environmental Analyst – Xcel Energy
- Jake Curtiss and John Bellon – Wanzek Construction, Inc.
- Samantha Swanberg – Environmental Scientist – Wenck Associates, Inc.

Construction for the Courtenay Wind Farm is expected to start up in May. At the time of inspection, activities going on at the site included fixing stormwater erosion and sediment control devices for best management practices (BMPs). Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) books were observed on-site in the Wanzek trailer at the construction yard. BMPs such as silt fences, straw wattles and mulch were observed on site. In some areas the silt fences had been run over or destroyed, and were in the process of being fixed.

Across the project area there were approximately 60 excavations and turbine foundations complete of the 100 total turbine locations. Access roads to turbine locations had been installed along with improvements to existing roads. The excavation area of the pads had a 200 ft radius disturbance area with topsoil piles along the edges. Contractors stated during the inspection that for the pad areas, topsoil was stripped to the color change in the soil, which averaged 6-8 inch depth. There were a few pad locations where the topsoil had been replaced and seeded; this was a contractor mistake, overall nothing appeared to be wrong with the area. These areas will have the topsoil stripped again in May when construction is expected to start up again.

Biologists had just finished an eagle survey for the site at the time of the site inspection. Currently there is one eagle nest near the project area (original site plan) but that area is being avoided; the turbines near that area have been removed from the plan. Now, the

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nearest turbine to the eagle nest is one mile away. The closest activity to the nest would either be a crane crawl or collector line approximately ½ mile away. Most of the area is farmland. Currently no trees have been removed from the project area and only one is expected to need to be removed.

Overall, construction appeared to be proceeding as planned with appropriate environmental mitigation measures in place. Some of the observed areas of interest include (see attached pictures and map):

- Typical site layout, the turbine foundation is near the center of the excavated pad area with topsoil on outer edges (Photo #1, Point #149);
- Only part of the topsoil was replaced at this location. Note remaining topsoil pile to the right of photo. Topsoil will be stripped again in May to continue construction at this location (Photo #2, Point #150);
- Silt fence along edge of farmland between wetland and pad area, functional and in good condition (Photo #3, Point #151);
- Topsoil was replaced in this area, there are some uneven contours near the edge of the pad area by the corn field, but topsoil will need to be stripped again in this area for construction in May (Photo #4, Point #152);
- Silt fence along access road and pad location (Photo #5, Point #153);
- Typical culvert and approach for access road. Straw wattles along culvert and ditch. Much of the mulch has blown away over the winter (Photo #6, Point #154);
- Installed access road with culvert. Straw wattles along culvert and ditch, appeared to be functional and in good condition (Photo #7, Point #155);
- Typical pad location. Topsoil around the edges of site, with open area in the topsoil pile (right side of the photo) for drainage to prevent ponding water (Photo #8, Point #156);
- Turbine foundation to the left of photo, topsoil pile along edge of pad area (Photo #9, Point #157);
- Foundation to the right of photo, topsoil pile along the edges of the pad (Photo #10, Point #158);
- Topsoil pile along edges of pad, silt fence behind topsoil piles to prevent sediment migration to wetland to the right of the turbine location (not visible in photo) (Photo #11, Point #159);
- Access road connecting wind turbine pads, foundation to the right of photo, topsoil along edges of pad (Photo #12, Point #160);
- Typical site area. Topsoil around the edges of site, open area in the topsoil pile (right side of the photo) for drainage and ponding water (Photo #13, Point #161);
- Topsoil pile to the left of photo, and silt fence to the right of photo on downslope in farmland (Photo #14, Point #161).

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Lead Project Manager, Kevin Magstadt, and Environmental Scientist, Samantha Swanberg, prepared the report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Magstadt', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Magstadt, P.E., Principal/Regional Manager

April 18, 2016

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Swanberg', written over a horizontal line.

Samantha Swanberg, Environmental Scientist

April 18, 2016

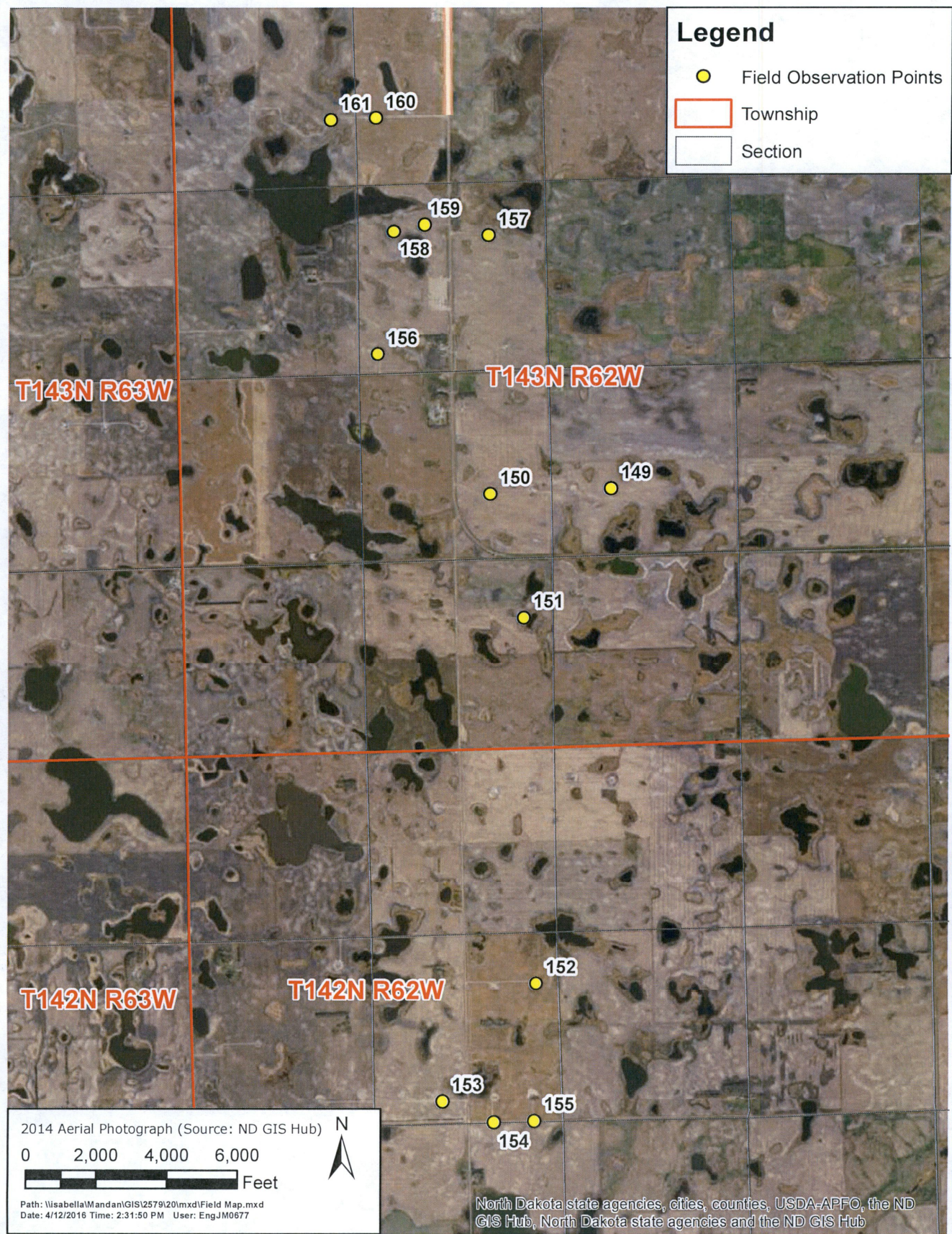
Date

Enclosed

Attachment 1: Figure 1 – Inspection GPS Waypoints
Attachment 2: Photo Log with Notes

Attachment 1

Figure 1 – Interim Inspection GPS Waypoints



NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Field Observation Map



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APR 2016

Figure 1

Attachment 2

Photo Log with Notes



Photo 1. Tower 81 (GPS Point #149). Typical site layout, the turbine foundation is near the center of the excavated pad area with topsoil on outer edges.



Photo 2. Tower 78 (GPS Point #150). Only part of the topsoil was replaced at this location. Note remaining topsoil pile to the right of photo. Topsoil will be stripped again in May to continue construction at this location.



Photo 3. Tower 84 (GPS Point #151). Silt fence along edge of farmland between wetland and pad area, functional and in good condition.



Photo 4. (GPS Point #152). Topsoil was replaced in this area, there are some uneven contours near the edge of the pad area by the corn field, but topsoil will need to be stripped again in this area for construction in May.



Photo 5. Tower 98 (GPS Point #153). Silt fence along access road and pad location, functional and in good condition.



Photo 6. Near Tower 99 (GPS Point #154). Typical culvert and approach for access road. Straw wattles along culvert and ditch. Much of the mulch has blown away over the winter.



Photo 7. Near Tower 100 (GPS Point #155). Installed access road with culvert. Straw wattles along culvert and ditch, appeared to be functional and in good condition.



Photo 8. Tower 67 (GPS Point #156). Typical pad location. Topsoil around the edges of site, with open area in the topsoil pile (right side of the photo) for drainage to prevent ponding water.



Photo 9. Tower 62 (GPS Point #157). Turbine foundation to the left of photo, topsoil pile along edge of pad area.



Photo 10. Tower 60 (GPS Point #158). Foundation to the right of photo, topsoil pile along the edges of the pad.



Photo 11. Tower 61 (GPS Point #159). Topsoil pile along edges of pad, silt fence behind topsoil piles to prevent sediment migration to wetland to the right of photo and the turbine location (not visible in photo).



Photo 12. Tower 45 (GPS Point #160). Access road connecting wind turbine pads, foundation to the right of photo, topsoil along edges of pad.



Photo 13. Tower 44 (GPS Point #161). Typical site area. Topsoil around the edges of site, open area in the topsoil pile (right side of the photo) for drainage and ponding water.



Photo 14. Near Tower 44 & 45 (GPS Point #161). Topsoil pile to the left of photo, and silt fence to the right of photo on downslope in farmland.